

Claim Status

1. (Original) Apparatus for controlling motion of a motor driven element in a vehicle over a range of motion and for altering said motion when undesirable resistance to said motion is encountered, said apparatus comprising:

a) a sensor for measuring a parameter of a motor coupled to the motor driven element that varies in response to a resistance to motion during all or part of a range of motion of the motor driven element;

b) a memory for storing a number of measurement values from the sensor based on measurements of said parameter over at least a portion of said range of motion;

c) a controller coupled to the memory for determining to de-activate the motor based on the measurement values stored in the memory as the motor driven element moves over its range of motion; and

d) a controller interface coupled to the motor for altering motion of said motor driven element in response to a determination made by the controller.

2. (Original) A method for controlling motion of a motor driven element in a vehicle over a range of motion and for altering said motion when undesirable resistance to said motion is encountered, said method comprising:

a) measuring a parameter of a motor coupled to the motor driven element that varies in response to a resistance to motion during all or part of a range of motion of the motor driven element by taking a multiplicity of measurements as the motor moves the motor driven element over its range of motion;

b) storing a number of measurement values based on measurements of said parameter over at least a portion of said range of motion;

c) determining that the parameter is outside a parameter range based on previous stored measurement values as the motor driven element moves over its range of motion; and

d) altering motion of said motor driven element in response to a determination

that the parameter is outside the parameter range.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the motor driven element is a window or panel and additionally comprising reverse actuating the window or panel prior to moving said window or panel in a direction to close the window or panel.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 additionally comprising maintaining a position of the window or panel based on the sensed parameter and the reverse actuation is initiated if a leading edge of the window or panel is near a closed position.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 movement is first initiated toward a closed position when a leading edge of the window or panel is near the closed position and wherein the reverse actuation is performed upon a sensing of an obstacle that is based on determining the parameter is outside the parameter range.

6. (Original) Apparatus for controlling activation of a motor coupled to a motor vehicle window or panel for moving said window or panel along a travel path and deactivating the motor if an obstacle is encountered by the window or panel, said apparatus comprising:

a) a sensor for sensing movement of the window or panel and providing a sensor output signal related to a speed of movement of the window or panel;

b) a switch for controllably actuating the motor by providing an energization signal; and

c) a controller having an interface coupled to the sensor and the switch for controllably energizing the motor; said controller sensing a collision with an obstruction when power is applied to the controller by:

i) monitoring movement of the window or panel by monitoring a signal from the sensor related to the movement of the window or panel;

ii) identifying a collision of the window or panel with an obstacle due to a change in the signal from the sensor that is related to a change in movement of the window or panel; and

iii) outputting a control signal to said switch to deactivate said motor in response to a sensing of a collision between an obstacle and said window or panel.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the controller comprises a programmable controller including a processing unit for executing a control program and including a memory for storing multiple window or panel speed values corresponding to a signal received from the sensor.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6 additionally comprising one or more limit switches for use by the controller to determine window or panel position for use in identifying a collision.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the control program adjusts an obstacle detection threshold in real time based on immediate past measures of the signal sensed by the sensor to adapt to varying conditions encountered during operation of the window or panel.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the controller maintains a position of a leading edge of the window or panel and further wherein the controller reverse energizes the motor to move the window or panel away from a closure position prior to activating the motor to close the window or panel.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the controller reverse energizes the motor in response to a sensing of an obstacle and the reverse energizing and attempt to move the window or panel to a closed position is performed to confirm sensing of the obstacle.

12. (Original) Apparatus for controlling activation of a motor for moving an object along a travel path and de-activating the motor if an obstacle is encountered by the object comprising:

a) a movement sensor for monitoring movement of the object as the motor moves said object along a travel path;

b) a switch for controlling energization of the motor with an energization signal; and

c) a controller including an interface coupled to the switch means for controllably energizing the motor and said interface additionally coupling the controller to the movement sensor for monitoring signals from said movement sensor; said controller comprising a stored program that:

i) determines motor speed from an output signal from the movement sensor;

ii) calculates an obstacle detect threshold based on motor speed of movement detected during at least one prior period of motor operation;

iii) compares a value based on currently sensed motor movement with the obstacle detect threshold; and

iv) outputs a signal from the interface to said switch for stopping the motor if the comparison based on currently sensed motor movement indicates the object has contacted an obstacle.

13 (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the controller includes a buffer memory for storing successive values of motor movement for use in determining the obstacle detect threshold.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the controller includes a clock and an input from the movement sensor is in a form of a sequence of pulses and further wherein the controller counts clock signals occurrences between receipt of pulses to provide an indication of motor speed.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the controller includes an interface for monitoring user actuation of control inputs for controlling movement of the window or panel and wherein the controller maintains a motor energization sequence a specified minimum time period in response to a short period user actuation of said control inputs to maintain position accuracy in monitoring window or panel movement.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the controller includes an interface for monitoring user actuation of control inputs for controlling movement of the object and wherein in response to a specified input the controller conducts a calibration motor energization sequence to determine parameters of object.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the motor is coupled to a motor vehicle window or panel and wherein the controller includes an interface for monitoring user actuation of control inputs for controlling movement of the window or panel and wherein the controller maintains a position indication which is updated in response movement of the window or panel and further wherein the controller reverse actuations the motor near an end point in an object path of travel to avoid false obstacle detection in the region of closure of the window or panel.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the sensor is a current sensor and wherein the controller includes means for adjusting the obstacle threshold based on dynamic motor current as sensed from the current sensor to take into account varying loads experienced by the motor.

19. (Original) Apparatus for controlling activation of a motor for moving a window or panel along a travel path and de-activating the motor if an obstacle is encountered by the window or panel comprising:

- a) a sensor for sensing movement of a window or panel along a travel path;
- b) a switch for controlling energization of the motor with an energization signal;

and

c) a controller coupled to the switch for controllably energizing the motor and having an interface coupling the controller to the sensor and to the switch; said controller comprising decision making logic for:

i) monitoring a signal from the sensor;

ii) calculating an obstacle detect threshold based on the signal that is detected during at least one prior period of motor operation, or a predetermined threshold;

iii) comparing a value based on a currently sensed motor parameter with the obstacle detect threshold; and

iv) stopping movement of the window or panel by controlling an output to said switch that controls motor energization if the comparison based on a currently sensed motor parameter indicates the window or panel has contacted an obstacle.

20. (Original) Apparatus for controlling activation of a motor for moving a window or panel along a travel path and de-activating the motor if an obstacle is encountered by the window or panel comprising:

a) a sensor for generating signals representative of the window or panel speed as the motor moves the window or panel along a travel path;

b) an obstacle detection controller for monitoring at least a part of the travel path of the window or panel for sensing and generating an obstacle detect signal indicating the presence in said travel path of an obstacle to movement of the window or panel;

c) a switch coupled to said controller for controlling energization of the motor with an energization signal; and

d) said controller including means for processing motor speed and obstacle detection signals and controlling operation of the motor in response to said speed or obstacle detection signals; said controller including:

i) a storage for storing a number of speed signals that vary with motor speed;

ii) a processor for calculating an obstacle detect threshold based on one or more

speed signals stored in said storage;

iii) a logic unit for making a comparison between a value representing window or panel speed based on currently sensed motor speed with the calculated obstacle detect threshold, a predetermined threshold, and generating a control output based on said comparison; and

iv) an interface coupled to said switch for changing the state of the switch to stop the motor.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the sensor for generating a speed signal comprises a Hall-effect sensor.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the sensor for generating a speed signal comprises a magnetic pick-up.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20 additionally comprising an obstacle detector having an output coupled to the controller that senses a disruption in a region through which the window or panel moves.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the obstacle detector comprises a microwave generator and a reflected wave transducer.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the obstacle detector comprises an infrared light source and detector.

26. (Renumbered – Original claim 27) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the obstacle detector comprises a field effect device.

27. (Renumbered – Original claim 28) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the field

effect device comprises a magnetic field inductive sensor.

28. (previously presented) Apparatus for controlling activation of a motor coupled to a motor vehicle window or panel for moving said window or panel along a travel path and de-activating the motor when a predetermined position is encountered by the window or panel, said apparatus comprising:

- a) a sensor for sensing movement of the window or panel and providing a sensor output signal related to a position of the window or panel;
- b) a switch for controllably actuating the motor by providing an energization signal; and
- c) a controller having an interface coupled to the sensor and the switch for controllably energizing the motor; said controller determines the position of the window or panel when power is applied to the controller by:
 - i) monitoring the position of the window or panel by monitoring the sensor output signal from the sensor related to the position of the window or panel;
 - ii) identifying the position of the window or panel based on the sensor output signal from the sensor; and

29. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the controller comprises a programmable controller including a processing unit for executing a control program and including a memory for storing multiple window or panel position values corresponding to a signal received from the sensor.

30. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 28 additionally comprising one or more position limits programmed for use by the controller to determine window or panel position for use in identifying whether the window or panel is closed or open.

31. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the controller maintains a position of a leading edge of the window or panel and further wherein the

controller reverse energizes the motor to move the window or panel away from a closure position prior to activating the motor to close the window or panel.

32. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the motor is coupled to a motor vehicle or panel and wherein the controller includes an interface for monitoring user actuation of control inputs for controlling movement of the window or panel and wherein the controller maintain a position indication which is updated in response to movement of the window or panel and further wherein the controller reverse actuates the motor near an end point in the travel path of the window or panel to avoid false obstacle detection in a region of closure of the window or panel.

33. (previously presented) Apparatus for controlling activation of a motor for moving a motor driven element in a vehicle over a range of motion and de-activating the motor when undesirable resistance to motion of the element is encountered, the apparatus comprising:

- a) a sensor for sensing a speed of the motor and generating an output signal representative of a speed of the motor, a speed of the motor changing when undesirable resistance to motion of the element is encountered;
- b) a switch for controlling activation of the motor; and
- c) a controller coupled to the sensor and the switch, the controller receiving the sensor output signal from the sensor and outputting a control signal to the switch to de-activate the motor if the sensor output signal indicates that the element has encountered undesirable resistance to motion.

34. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 33 wherein the sensor includes a Hall effect sensor.

35. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 33 wherein the apparatus includes a memory for storing values corresponding to the sensor output signal over at

least a portion of the range of motion of the element and the controller analyzes the sensor output signal values stored in the memory to determine if the control signal to de-activate the motor should be output to the switch.